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Polish Businessman, Accused as Spy, Goes on Trial

By JUDITH CUMMINGS

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LOS ANGELES, Oct. 21 — The defense argument was a simple, depicting the accused as a dedicated young businessman bent on obtaining "harmless" information for his company. The prosecution described a complicated case, involving more than 40 witnesses, some of them ranking military and intelligence specialists, to show that the "businessman" was a Polish agent engaged in espionage against the interests of the United States.

Thus did the opposing sides outline today their view of the trial of Marian W. Zacharski, a Polish citizen accused of paying a former Hughes Aircraft engineer to turn over secret information related to national security.

The case has gained widespread attention as an example of what Government officials describe as an increasing flow of United States military secrets to Soviet-bloc countries. It is also, in this view, illustrative of what officials have termed serious lapses of security in many defense-related industries.

Former Co-defendant to Testify

Mr. Zacharski went on trial without the American co-defendant with whom he was indicted on espionage charges in June. William Holden Bell, a former

Hughes Aircraft engineer, pleaded guilty to one count of espionage on the eve of trial. Mr. Bell, who has been cooperating with the Government, could be sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison and fined \$10,000.

Mr. Zacharski is accused of having paid Mr. Bell \$110,000 in cash and gold coins over a year and a half in exchange for "secret" and "classified" documents about some of the company's latest weapons and radar systems. He was indicted on two counts of conspiring to gather and deliver military information to the Polish Government.

Robert S. Brewer Jr., the assistant United States Attorney prosecuting the

case, told the jury in Federal District Court here that he intends to summon 45 witnesses and submit 250 pieces of evidence. Mr. Brewer said he would call Maj. Gen. Richard Larkin, former deputy director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and Arthur Van Cooke, chairman of the National Disclosure Policy Committee and the United States representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance Security Committee.

Gold Coins to Be Traced

Mr. Brewer said his third witness would be the 61-year-old Mr. Bell. Others would be Government customs officials, employees of international airlines and individuals who received gold coins from Mr. Bell, purportedly those obtained from Mr. Zacharski, in payment for services.

The accused is represented by Ed-

ward Stadum, who for days has sought unsuccessfully to have the trial delayed. Mr. Stadum has protested that he has been unable to get expert witnesses to interpret the technical data at the core of the case. Those familiar with the subject, Mr. Stadum said, either worked for the Government or for companies with Government contracts. He said that one potential witness told him, "Your client ought to be shot."

The lawyer, by emphasizing what he called Mr. Bell's "monumental" self-interest in seeing Mr. Zacharski convicted, sought to portray the Government case as "untrustworthy."

At one point, he characterized Mr. Bell as a "kept man" of the F.B.I., housed and fed at Government expense.

Mr. Stadum cast doubt on the importance of the information to national security, saying that it was "useless and harmless" material.

As for his client, Mr. Stadum said that Mr. Zacharski, the president of a Polish Government-owned company with offices in Illinois and California, was "here on a legitimate commercial mission."

"He carried out activities which were loyal to his own Government," Mr. Stadum said, "and which may or may not have resulted in the transmission of documents advantageous to his Government."